

Twenty-First Century STOICISM

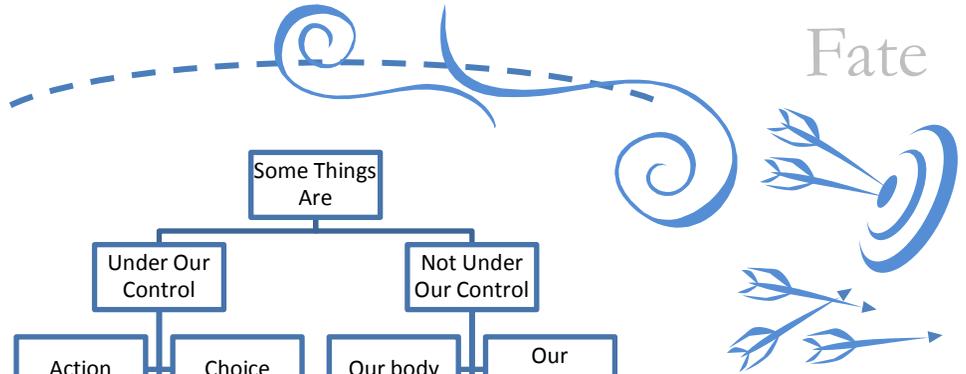
God
Logos
Zeus
Fate

Live According To Nature

"Our central motto" - Seneca

The Archer may aim his arrow at the target, which is in his control, but hitting the target is up to Fate.

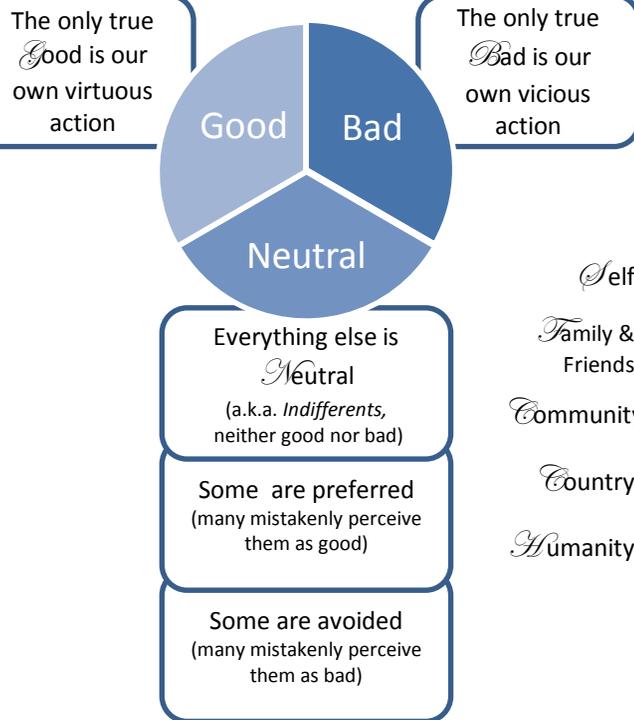
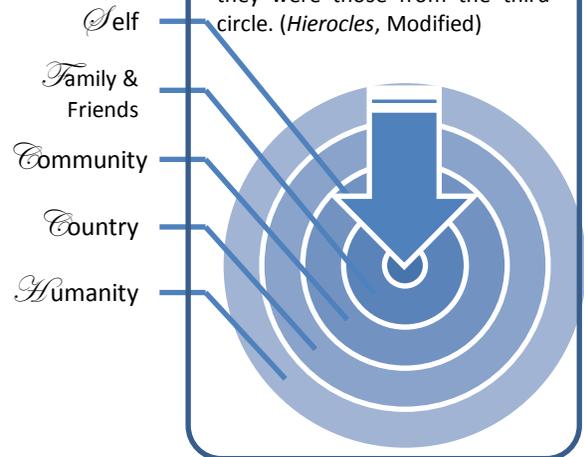
(from Cicero)



Virtue, which the Stoics taught was a single thing, is human moral excellence. This excellence is a natural development in people, if unimpeded by false judgements. This is life in accordance with the way that Nature has designed us. Through virtuous action we grow from moral weakness to health, from mere health into fitness, and then from fitness into fully developed virtuous potential. The human who performs all acts with perfect virtue (i.e with moral excellence) is the mythical Stoic Sage.



Each one of us is encompassed by many circles... It is the task of each person, as he or she treats each group properly, to draw the circles together somehow towards the center, and to keep zealously transferring those from the enclosing circles into the enclosed ones. We must learn to care for and respect people from the third circle as if they were those from the second, and again to respect our other relatives as if they were those from the third circle. (Hierocles, Modified)



Are Stoics unemotional?

No! They base their emotional life on rational foundations. "We are not statues!" - Epictetus

Emotions / Attitudes		Present	Future
Irrational	Perceived 'Good'	Elation/Possessiveness	Lust/Longing
	Perceived 'Bad'	Anger/Despair	Dread/Fear
Rational	Virtue/Things preferred	Joy/Gratitude	Hope/Cheerfulness
	Vice/Things avoided	Serenity/Acceptance	Caution/Realistic

Stoic Action

